

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5TH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH PA 15213 (412) 687-1220

Administrator: Reverend Michael D Kunitz
Holy Spirit Rectory
4815 5th Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15213
(412) 687-1220
FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com
Website – holyspiritbyzcath.com
Cantor: Julia Revilak and Family
Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero and
Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, October 16: 10:45am Third Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

for many happy years for Ruth Cavanaugh, by Barbara Hanchin

Adult ECF Lecture: “What Is a Byzantine Catholic?” immediately after Liturgy

4pm Confession, 5pm Divine Liturgy

Monday, October 17: 4:30pm Confessions, 5:30pm Vespers with Litja for the Feast of St. Luke

Friday, October 21: 5pm Confession ~ 6pm Divine Liturgy

Saturday, October 22: 4:30 Confession ~ 5:30 Great Vespers

Sunday, October 23: 10:45am Third Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

for the deceased George Carr, by Theresa Carr

4pm Confession, 5pm Divine Liturgy

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: Our theme for this Nineteenth Sunday after Holy Pentecost accentuates the UNSELFISH LOVE that is to characterize the interpersonal actions of Jesus’ true followers. The observance relative to the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Nicean Ecumenical Council focuses our attention upon the deposit of the TRUE FAITH of the Church and how it is to be preserved, practiced, and transmitted. As love increases, faith becomes more fervent and truly dynamic. Genuine faith will influence every aspect of our lives.

PROPERS FOR THE DAY: Tone 2 (pg 130) and for the Feast (pg 263)

COMMEMORATION OF THE SEVENTH UNIVERSAL COUNCIL TODAY.....Our Byzantine Catholic Church remembers on this particular Sunday in October the 350 hierarchs who participated in the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 787 A.D. The controversy concerning iconoclasm was resolved definitively, and the Church’s irrevocable position relative to icons was defined solemnly by the hierarchs (mostly all of whom were Byzantine bishops) who attended this seventh universal council. The heresy of iconoclasm was initiated by the Byzantine Emperor Leo the Isaurian in 726 A.D., and it forbade the use of sacred images or icons and other such decorations in the Christian Church. The true doctrine of the Church formulated by this council states: **“Images of Jesus, His Most Holy Mother, and of the saints should be made....veneration should be given to them....because the honor that they receive refers to the subjects that they represent, so that by kissing icons....we adore Jesus Christ, and we venerate His saints whose likenesses they represent.”** Therefore, it is readily evident that from the time of antiquity, the constant teaching of the Church has been that proper respect and due veneration be given to holy icons. After the Seventh Ecumenical Council had rendered this authoritative decision, sacred images and religious decorations were restored again to the Church of Christ. In making this special commemoration, our Byzantine Catholic Church reminds all of us, its faithful people, even today about the sacred traditions that have been established, defined, and transmitted over the centuries by the Holy Fathers who have participated in such ecumenical councils. Our duty then is to preserve and defend this spiritual treasure of our holy faith which is held within the repository of the Church. We must live and practice the faith according to the mandates and the precepts which originally were established by the Church and then were maintained over the many centuries from the earliest times of Christianity until this present day.

EPISTLE: *II Corinthians 11:31-12:9 ~ Hebrews 13:7-16 (for the Feast)*

The God and Father of the Lord Jesus knows, he who is blessed forever, that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus, in order to seize me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands. I must boast; not that it is profitable, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know someone in Christ who, fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows), was caught up to the third heaven. And I know that this person (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows) was caught up into Paradise and heard ineffable things, which no one may utter. About this person I will boast, but about myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses.

Although if I should wish to boast, I would not be foolish, for I would be telling the truth. But I refrain, so that no one may think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me because of the abundance of the revelations. Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.

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Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching. It is good to have our hearts strengthened by grace and not by foods, which do not benefit those who live by them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. The bodies of the animals whose blood the high priest brings into the sanctuary as a sin offering are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach that he bore. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him [then] let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.

GOSPEL: *Luke 8:5-15 ~ John 17:1-13 (for the Feast)*

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.' This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.

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When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely."

AROUND THE EPARCHY

CAMPUS MINISTRY- The Archdiocese is starting a new campus ministry. If you know any college students in the Pittsburgh area, please give their names to Fr. Michael.

FALL CRAFT SHOW - St. John Cathedral, 210 Greentree Rd. Munhall, Saturday, October 22, 2022, 10am - 3 pm. Crafters & Vendors, Showcase Auction, Raffles, Ethnic Foods.

PITTSBURGH DEANERY PASTA DINNER - Oct. 23, St. Elias, Munhall PA

Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration Sunday October 30 Noon to 5:00 pm St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church 185 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401. There will be ethnic foods. (holubki, halushki, pirohi, pagach, kolbasi & kraut), baked goods, entertainment which includes the Rusyn Folk musical group "Rusynsky Betjare" throughout the afternoon. There will also be a speaker and /or video presentation on Rusyn culture/customs, church tour displays, craft sales, raffles, parish cookbooks, extensive bake sale, folk art demonstrations, and children's activities. **All are welcome. Admission free.**

Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. *With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.*

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen